

REFERENCES

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15. OCCURRENCE OF COMMON CARP (*CYPRINUS CARPIO*) IN TROUT WATERS

Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) was introduced and retained in a tank at the Trout farm, Mahili (Katrain), Kulu valley of Himachal Pradesh, on the left bank of river Beas. This was during the years 1958-1962. The fish were disposed of and attempts to culture them abandoned after finding poor prospects of breeding and growth in the cold waters. Only one breeding was managed in a spring-water fed tank at a temperature of 17.5°C. There was no trace of the fish or its progeny left thereafter, as the farm tanks had been completely cleaned and dried several times and the water supply cut off several times for long periods during the gap of 17 years.

Another private farmer on the right bank of the river Beas attempted the culture of common carp in 1969 after converting a marsh fed on spring water, in a temperature range 18°C-22°C which he has continued to prospect.

A strange occurrence took place during July-August this year. Three Common carps were caught in the torrential Beas (temp.

range 6°C-14°C) which sometimes flows at above 3 metres per second velocity by a trout angler using dough and turmeric bait. During the same month another Common carp 24 cm long was collected from a drying-down channel of the same trout farm at Katrain from where the fish had been completely disposed of 17 years ago. The fish when collected was in a melanic form. After collection, this was transferred to a spring water source at 17.5°C temperature. Within a fortnight the fish reverted to its natural colour.

It is certain that the fish had travelled at least 3 kilometres in the torrential, cold Beas and crossed to the other side to reach the site where it was collected, besides the journey it must have performed in the river course. The Common carp is thought to be a fish of hill impoundments, but its occurrence under such torrential conditions has not been observed earlier.

I shall be greatly obliged if readers kindly write to me if any such occurrence of Common carp has been observed or reported to them.

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